

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Fiscal Year 2004 Report



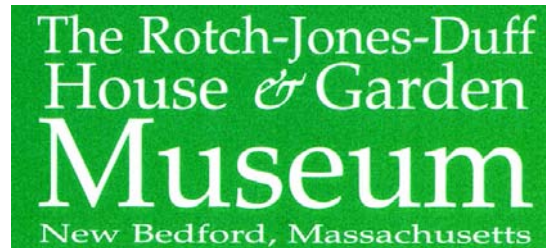
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park helps to preserve, protect, and interpret certain districts, structures and artifacts located in New Bedford... associated with the history of whaling and related social, economic and environmental themes for the benefit and inspiration of this and future generations...

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...These efforts will be undertaken in partnership with the City of New Bedford, local and regional, institutions and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska

—*General Management Plan for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 2001*



**New Bedford Historical Society**

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Through partnerships...New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park supports the preservation of the historic landscapes, structures, and museum and archival collections in New Bedford associated with the history of whaling.**

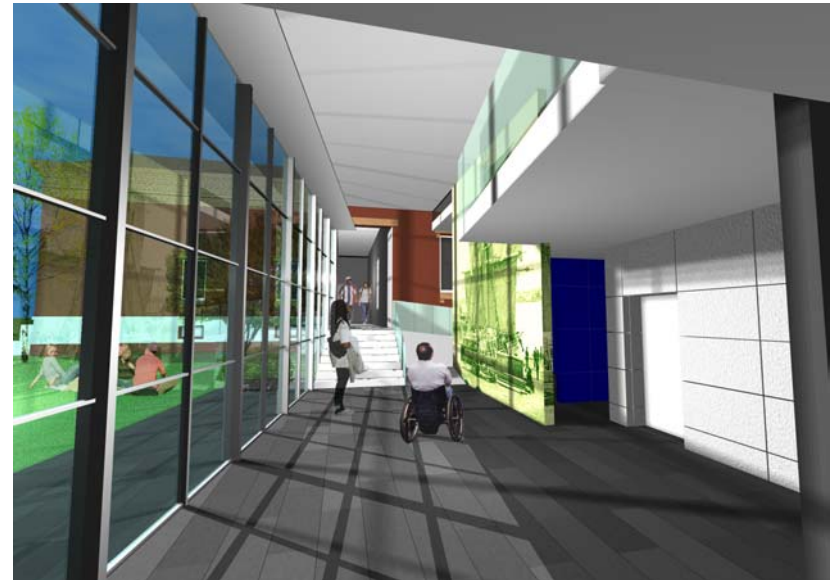
***--General Management Plan***



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Continued Planning & Design for Corson Building



WHALE donated the building to the National Park Service (April 2004), DAB gave approval to proceed to develop construction documents and undertake Phase I construction of the project that includes a new steel frame and completed exterior and roof



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Provided support for selected bricks and mortar projects undertaken by the City within the historical park

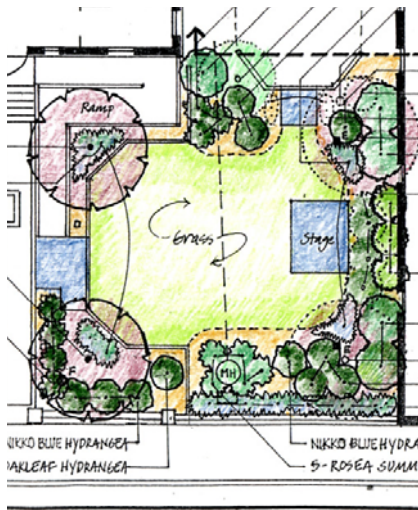




# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Implemented landscaping plan developed by the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Continued support for the archives & operation of the New Bedford Historical Commission





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



The Park collaborates with a wide range of institutions...to promote the delivery of high quality, interpretive, cultural, and educational programming to the general public. —*General Management Plan*

In partnership with the City, installed 30 new interpretive “wayside” panels, 12 more by the end of the year and...



New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

## New Bedford Lights the World

Candles were a prime product of the early whaling industry. On the corner across the street, the Rodman Candleworks, built about 1810, is one of only two surviving candleworks buildings in New Bedford, once known worldwide for the quality of its spermaceti candles.

The process of making candles from spermaceti—the solid, waxy substance found in a sperm whale’s head—was a closely guarded secret when Samuel Rodman learned it. Making a spermaceti candle took from fall to the following summer and involved repeated pressing, congealing, and heating. But before petroleum was discovered, a spermaceti candle was the best candle on the market. It was hard, burned a long time, and its light was bright and white.

The light of a spermaceti candle was so bright that it was used to calibrate the Standard International Candle, a unit of light intensity that was applied when incandescent lightbulbs were introduced in the 19th century. In fact, there were up “candlehouses and oil factories” in New Bedford.

Advertisement for Spermaceti Candles, New Bedford city directory 18th edn.

Candle: Photo by Dan Wiley  
Illustration and Advertisement Courtesy: New Bedford Whaling Museum

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT  
**GEO. DELANO & CO.,**  
Representatives in U.S.A. of the following  
**SPERM and WHALE OIL,**  
**SPERM CANDLE,**  
PATENT and PLAIN SPERM CANDLES,  
Whale Preslings, Sperm and Whale Oil  
Saps.  
Office, 140 Front Street, NEW YORK CITY.  
Factory, South Boston, Cor. of South Street.  
New Bedford, Mass.

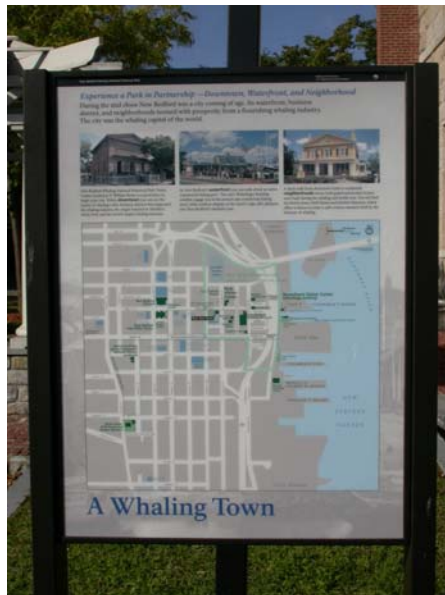
REPRESENTED BY  
**W. A. ROBINSON & CO.,**  
**SPERM/WHALE OIL,**  
SPERM CANDLES, OIL SOAP, &c.  
4th Floor, 100, Water Street, NEW BEDFORD, MASS.  
No. 10 South Water Street, NEW BEDFORD, MASS.  
**WM. F. POTTER & CO.,**  
**WHOLESALE GROCERS,**  
Petroleum Oil, Provision, and Country Produce,  
Union St., corner Front, NEW BEDFORD.



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Visitor pathways to destinations within the city are safe and easy to navigate. Virtual pathways guide visitor to well designed and developed destinations on the internet that are easy to find and use. --*General Management Plan*

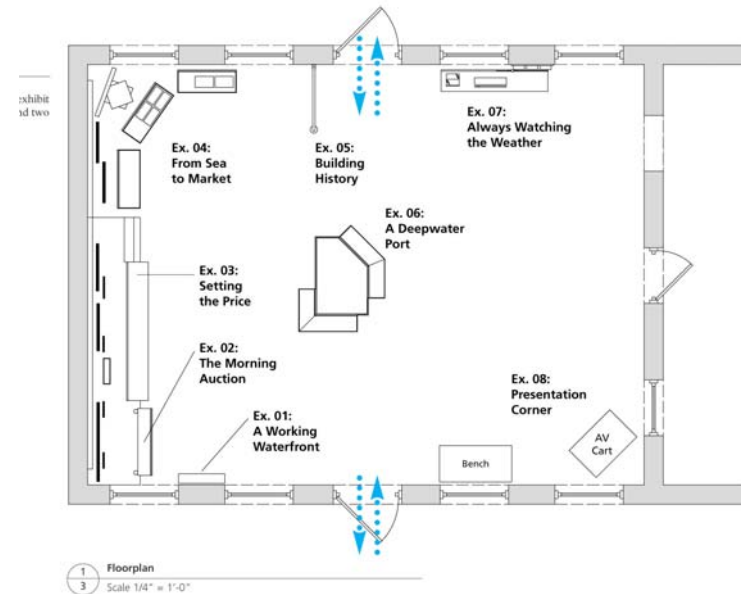


**Installed new “wayfinder” panels to guide visitors through the National Park & Downtown...**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



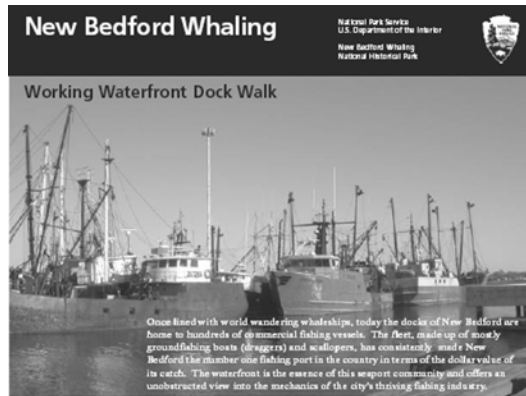
Opened an exhibit on the history of the Wharfinger Building and New Bedford's commercial fishing industry



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Developed and printed three new park publications



### Before You Get Started

This self-guided walking tour highlights various locations on the working waterfront and serves as a companion to the exhibits at the Waterfront Visitor Center (Wharfinger Building) and the information found on the interpretive trail along the dock.

The New Bedford waterfront is located in a Designated Port Area. This special designation was established in 1978 to "preserve and promote maritime industry" through land use and other restrictions. As is true of any industrial area, New Bedford's waterfront is bustling with truck and industrial traffic and other maritime related activity. For your safety, we recommend that you use caution when walking on the waterfront.

Bedford's docks are the following basic rules:  
1. Walk along the side of the dock to keep clear of vehicular traffic.  
2. Keep a safe distance from workers who may be working or repairing boats.  
3. Use caution when approaching the edges of the docks as there is little to prevent a fall. Finally, we hope you enjoy a safe, enjoyable and informative tour as you explore New Bedford's working waterfront.

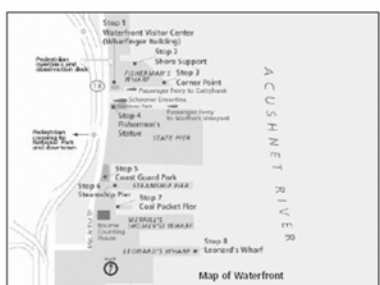
Several other self-guided tour options including Bedford's Waterfront, The Undergarment Railroad, and the Bedford Whaling Museum are available at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center located at 13 William Street.

### What boat is that?



**Scurvy** - These boats drag two steel dredges, one on either side of the boat along the ocean floor for sea scallops.

**Dragger** - Dragners harvest flatfish from the ocean floor using a net that comes off a large spool at the back of the boat.



New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is the only National Park Service established to commemorate the American whaling industry and its impact on the social, economic and environmental history of the United States. The park encompasses 14 acres over 13 city blocks and more than 30 structures - owned privately by other government agencies - are within the park's boundaries. Sites within the park include the New Bedford Whaling Museum, Seaman's Bethel, Rutch Jones Duff House and Garden Museum, Coast Guard Park, Wharfinger Building and the Schooner Enclosure. Regularly scheduled programs, events, walking tours (seasonal) and self-guided walking tours are offered. The park also has a geographically distant partner - the Inupiat Heritage Center - located in Barrow, Alaska, which commemorates more than 1,200 New Bedford-based whaling voyages to the Western Arctic.



National Park Visitor Center

### Visitor Center Information

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily Website: [www.nps.gov/nbe](http://www.nps.gov/nbe)  
Phone: (508) 458-4900 Radio: 160.1 AM  
Location: 13 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 01906



Directions: By car, New Bedford is approximately 1 hour south of Boston and 30 minutes east of Providence. From I-95 take exit 1 and travel one mile south on Route 1A to the first set of lights. Take a right at the lights and the Elm Street Municipal Parking Garage is located on your right. Follow the brown and white signs to the visitor center located one block away at 13 William Street.

### New in the Park

This summer the park is offering new ways to learn about America's whaling and maritime history. Along with our regularly scheduled free walking tours, concerts, and craft demonstrations, the park has installed a brand new system of more than 40 outdoor interpretive panels and a new indoor exhibition at the Waterfront Visitor Center (Wharfinger Building) interpreting the city's fishing industry.

The outdoor exhibits provide an overview of the significant events and sites associated with New Bedford's whaling and maritime history. The new exhibit at the Waterfront Visitor Center (Wharfinger Building), located at Fishermen's Wharf, lets you take a trip back in time when the building served as the site of the New Bedford outdoor auction (1842-1913). The restored "auction room" hosts exhibits that tell the story of the auction as well as today's working waterfront. After visiting the exhibit, pick up a copy of Working Waterfront Dock Walk, a self-guided walking tour that enables you to explore New Bedford's waterfront on your own.



Experience the rich history of the whaling industry in New Bedford. This self-guided walking tour takes you through the city's whaling history, from the early days of whaling to the present. The tour includes a visit to the Waterfront Visitor Center and the Wharfinger Building.



The tour includes a visit to the Waterfront Visitor Center and the Wharfinger Building. The tour also includes a visit to the Seaman's Bethel and the Rutch Jones Duff House and Garden Museum. The tour is a self-guided walking tour that takes you through the city's whaling history.



### A Whaling Town



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Helped staff the Wharfinger Building – keeping the building open weekends throughout the summer**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Volunteers in Parks (VIPs)



Sponsored a comprehensive training program for new and veteran volunteers. This year, 60 volunteers provided 6,000 hours of service and enhanced visitor understanding through 200 walking tours for 2,000 visitors.



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Future Stewards of our Heritage



Engaged 700 young people in an exploration of history through the park's Junior Ranger Program...



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...worked with the community's young people through the Speech Academy and other youth programs, served more than 1,200 young people...



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Reached out to local teachers through the collaborative *Portraits of a Port* Summer institute



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Visitors understand the global dimensions of the city's whaling industry and maritime trades...including...the diversity of cultures associated with the industry, and its relationship to Arctic exploration and Native Alaskan cultures.  
—*General Management Plan*

**Traveled teacher and park volunteer Lucy Bly to Barrow, AK funded by the US Dept. of Education's Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO)**

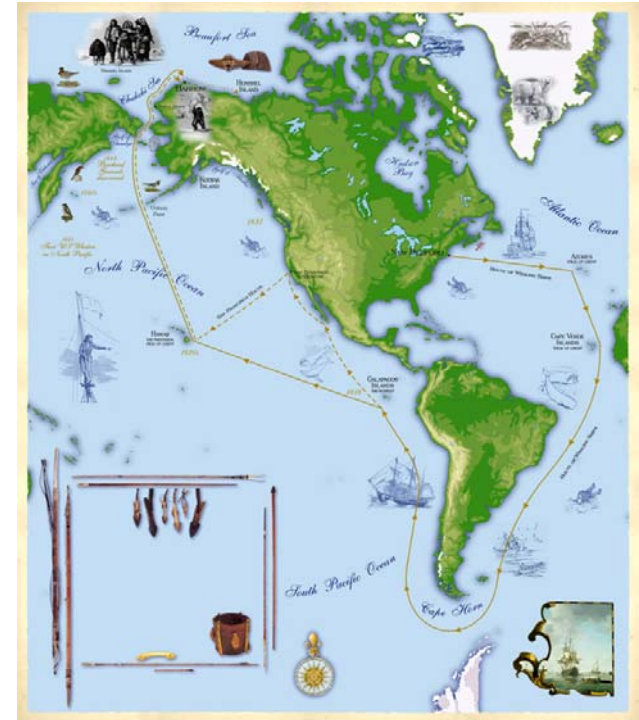




# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Assisted in the development of the Barrow  
Jr. Ranger Program and map of Yankee  
Whaling Routes...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Coordinated the travel of park partners to the Azores at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to install *At the Crossroads* traveling exhibit...



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...Nominated the interpretive program *Discovering New Bedford's Underground Railroad History* as a program of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom...





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park fosters a climate in which community initiatives and collaborations are encouraged.

—*General Management Plan*



**...With the support of Local Cultural Councils and Eastern National, supported community-focused concerts, maritime craft demonstrations...**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...provided support and helped to sponsor major events in the park...



Summerfest 2004...

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...Plus two new major events at the park- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Annual Azorean Whaleboat Regatta and ...





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

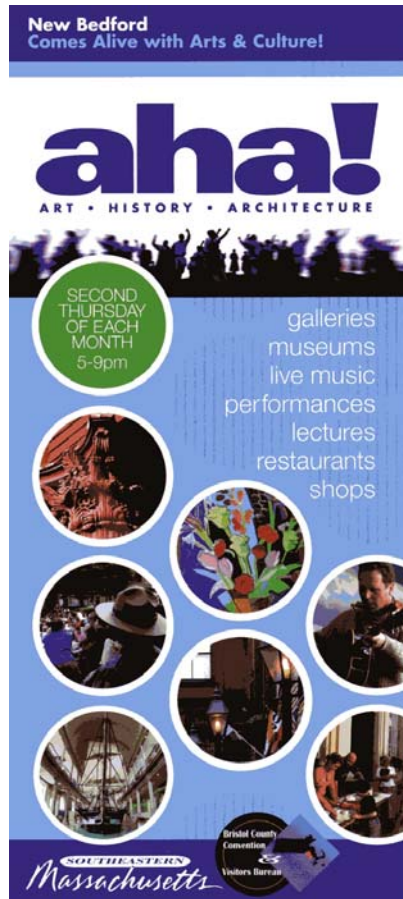


**...1<sup>st</sup> Annual Working Waterfront Festival...**



**...which received a NER Civic Engagement Grant to record oral histories of those with ties to the commercial fishing industry.**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Provided support for AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) -- Downtown New Bedford's monthly arts & culture night



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## FY 2004 by the Numbers

Operating budget - \$616,000

Staff – 6 full-time, 1 summer

Park visitation – 325,000

Orientation movie – 33,000

AHA! Project – 20,000

60 volunteers – contributing 6,000 hours

200 walking tours for 2,000 visitors

The park contributes to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding of historic resources related to the social, economic, and environmental history of whaling and their associated themes, and fosters stewardship of these resources through a network of private and public partners.

—*General Management Plan*



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Fiscal Year 2005 – The Work Ahead



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## FY 2005 by the Numbers

Anticipated operating budget      \$616,000  
Minus Custom House Rent      - \$ 14,000  
   \$602,000

Anticipated staff – 6 full-time, 1 summer  
   (currently 5 full-time)

Operating Budget recommended in  
General Management Plan - \$1.4 million

Staff recommended in General  
Management Plan – 16.5

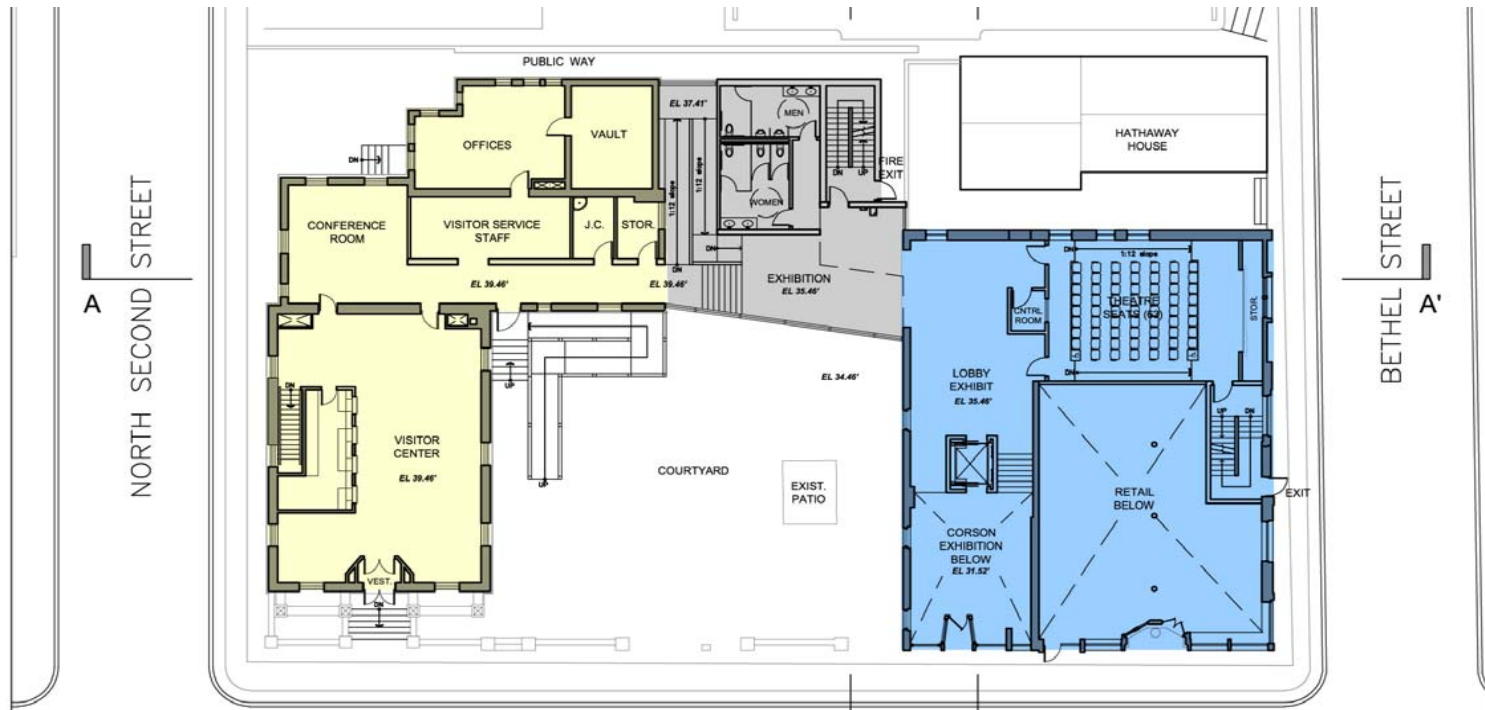
Deficit - \$798,000 in annual operating  
funds and 8.5 staff



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**In FY 2005, we will complete Phase I construction documents for the Corson Building and potentially begin Phase I construction...**





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...complete the installation of the wayside and wayfinder interpretive panels...

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## New Bedford Lights the World

Candles were a prime product of the early whaling industry. On the corner across the street, the Rodman Candleworks, built about 1810, is one of only two surviving candleworks buildings in New Bedford, once known worldwide for the quality of its spermaceti candles.

The process of making candles from spermaceti—the solid, waxy substance found in a sperm whale's head—was a closely guarded secret when Samuel Rodman learned it. Making a spermaceti candle took from fall to the following summer and involved repeated pressing, congealing, and heating. But before petroleum was discovered, a spermaceti candle was the best candle on the market. It was hard, burned a long time, and its light was bright and white.

The light of a spermaceti candle was so bright that it was used to calibrate the Standard International Candle, a unit of light intensity that was applied when incandescent light bulbs were introduced in the early century. In days there were no "candlepower" and factories in New Bedford.

Advertisement for Spermaceti Candles, New Bedford c.1850-1860

Candle Makers: The Rodman Candleworks, 1810-1860. Courtesy: New Bedford Whaling Museum.

**GEO. DELANO & CO.,**  
Wholesale Grocers,  
Spermaceti and Whale Oil,  
PATENT AND PLAIN SPERM CANDLE,  
Whale Feedings, Sperm and Whale Oil  
Soap.  
Office, 140 Front Street, NEW YORK CITY.  
Factory, South Street, Cor. of South Street,  
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

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Union St., corner Front, NEW BEDFORD.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Heroes of Fort Wagner

During the Civil War many of the black men who enlisted at a recruiting office near this spot were mustered into Company C of the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Among these recruits was New Bedford's Sergeant William H. Carney.

*Previous to the formation of the colored troops, I had a strong inclination to prepare myself for the ministry; but when the country called for all persons, I could best serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.* Sergeant William H. Carney, October 15, 1865.

The 54th became famous for their role in the brave but doomed attack on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina, in 1863. When the regiment's standard-bearer fell, Carney took up the American flag and carried it under fire to the Confederate parapet. Although wounded several times, he returned the colors safely, handing them over with the words, "The old flag never touched the ground, boys."

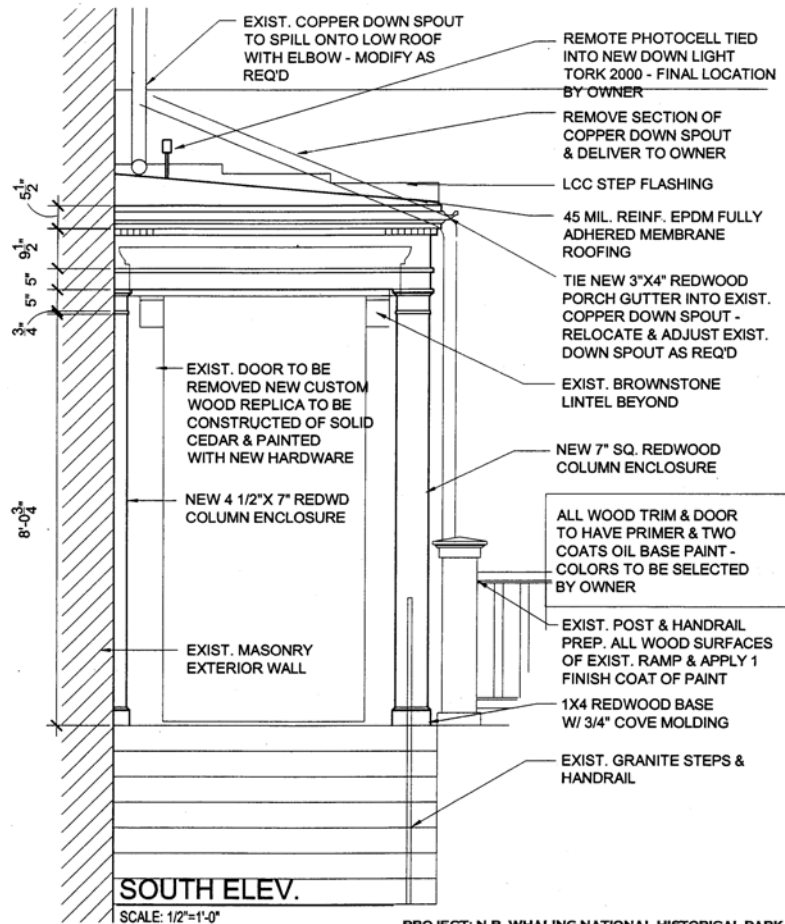
Company C also included Corporal James Henry Gooding, a former whaler from New Bedford. His dispatches to the New Bedford *Mercury* gave local people news of the 54th Regiment and helped the recruitment effort. Gooding was captured in Florida at the battle of Olustee in February 1864 and died later that year in Georgia's infamous Andersonville Prison.

At Fort Wagner, South Carolina, Carney had been wounded twice but advanced to the fort's parapet and planted the regiment's flag there. When the 54th retreated, Carney—"creeping on one knee," a witness said—carried the flag back to one of his regiment's officers.

Sergeant William H. Carney with the Regiment's American flag.

**Storming Fort Wagner**  
Lithograph by Kurz and Allison, 1863.  
Courtesy: U.S. Army Center of Military History

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...the Visitor Center's side entrance portico will be constructed, completing the final phase of accessibility improvements...

**RCB** CONSULTANTS  
NEW BEDFORD MA

PROJECT: N.B. WHALING NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
VISITOR CENTER PORTICO

DATE: 4-9-04

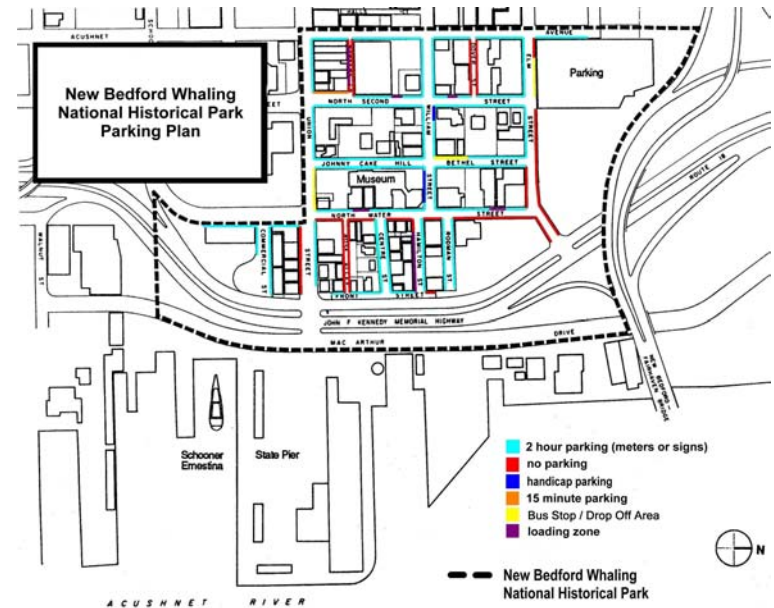
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

**SKA-2**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...take the lead with partners on the implementation of the Downtown/National Park Parking and Circulation Plan...





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Complete the Historic Furnishings Report for the  
Rotch-Jones Duff House in league with the NPS  
Northeast Museum Service Center...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Continue to provide assistance on projects with  
the Inupiat Heritage Center...**



**...Work with the US Department of Agriculture and  
local partners on ongoing projects with the Azores,  
Portugal...**

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...support collaborative programming in New Bedford that enhances visitor understanding and enjoyment...**



**...Continue to provide technical assistance to park partners and to strive for excellence – with your help.**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



The National Park Service cares for special place  
set aside by the American people so that all may  
experience our heritage.

Thank  
you!

